

# MUTILATED BODY OF MURDER VICTIM IS FOUND

LAWYER SAYS COMMISSIONERS AUTOMATICALLY LOSE JOBS IF ROAD LAW IS REPEALED

The Parisian in make-up and appearance is the only Metropolitan Newspaper published between Knoxville and Memphis

## THE PARISIAN

THE PAPER WITH A CIRCULATION AT HOME

During the past four weeks The Parisian carried 9,420 inches of local Henry county news. 562 inches more than any other county paper.

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### COLD RAIN PREVENTS PREPARATION OF LAND FOR SPRING OAT CROP

Falling Temperature On Wednesday Blasts Hopes For Early Plowing

### WHEAT CROPS DAMAGED BY MANY WEATHER CHANGES

Gardens Will Be Put Out When Temperature Rises Again; Too Wet For Plowing

Farmers who were getting ready to prepare their land for the sowing of spring oats had their hopes blasted Tuesday afternoon when a cool rain set in. The temperature continued to fall and the rain kept up through Wednesday night.

The wheat crop in the county is not looking very good, having been damaged considerably by the frequent freezes and thaws. However, a few weeks of good weather now would bring it out considerably.

When the temperature moderates again gardens will be prepared and early frost-proof cabbage plants and onions will be set out.

Gardeners and truck growers expect to have their early vegetables out long before Good Friday this year, which falls on April 21, provided the weather moderates and the rains cease.

Very little spring plowing—probably less than in years—has been done in Henry county as yet because the ground has been too wet for plowing since late November. For this reason work will be rushed by the farmers as soon as the weather will permit.

### Coroner's Jury

Members of the coroner's jury holding the inquest over the body of Josie Pryor were E. B. McGehee, foreman, J. T. Porter, F. A. Burton, W. G. Adams, H. A. Snow, R. W. Claxton and R. S. Scott.

### RYE ASKED TO HELP IN MAN HUNT

Many citizens of Paris and Henry county have signed a petition to Gov. Rye asking him to offer a reward of \$50.00 for the capture of Bert Hawkins, alias Greer, negro, who shot and beat his wife to death here several months ago. If a reward is offered it is believed that the negro may be found. He fled on the night of the murder, and officers have been unable to locate him. The report a few days ago that Hawkins had been captured was a mistake.

### NEGRO HANGS HIMSELF IN CELL AS MOB THREATENS JAIL; CONFESSES MURDER

Josie Pryor Is Buried Beneath Body of Hog On Sam Love's Lot. Hold Jim and Sam Love As Accessories After Fact In Connection With Crime.

Buried beneath a pile of refuse from the stable, the body of Josie Pryor, negress, was discovered by a party of searchers Sunday afternoon at the rear of the barn of Sam Love on Brewer street, and with the body and upon it was found that of a dead hog.

Shortly after the removal of the negress' body from the ground, officers arrested Sam Love, step-father of Tom Barr, who was being held on suspicion in connection with the woman's disappearance, as an accessory, and a little later Jim Love, brother of Sam and who had been with Barr on the night the negress disappeared, was also arrested. Both were immediately locked up in the county jail.

Justice W. T. Snow empaneled a coroner's jury at the scene of the discovery and they began taking evidence at once.

The Pryor woman was last seen alive on the night of February 12th. She was in the company of Barr, with whom she had been going for a long while, at the time. A number of negroes say that he had often threatened her with death before that time.

On Tuesday of last week Barr was arrested and placed in jail. He denied his guilt, but suspicion was so strong that at the preliminary hearing two days later he was held to await the action of the next grand jury.

In the meantime searching parties were scouring the county in an effort to locate the body of the missing woman. The searchers looked in every place where it seemed possible that the body might have been hidden, dragged Russell's lake and all ponds and pools of water about Paris, but discovered nothing.

Friday or Saturday a reward of \$50.00 was offered by the woman's relatives for the discovery of her body, and the hunt was continued with renewed interest and excitement.

However, the searching parties had almost despaired of success when one of them came upon a pile of stable refuse behind the Love negro's barn Sunday. Investigation proved that there was some fresh earth in the pile, and believing that they were about to solve the mystery of the Pryor woman's disappearance they at once began digging into the pile.

First the body of the hog was unearthed, and just beneath this in mud and water was found the missing woman.

Among those in the party discovering the body were Sam McGehee and a number of negroes. As soon as they found that the

### Resume of Murder

Saturday, February 12—Josie Pryor killed by Tom Barr. Sunday, February 13—Woman is missed and search begins, suspicion pointing to Barr.

Monday, February 14—The search continues and public more strongly suspects Barr.

Tuesday, February 15—Barr is arrested and tells officers that he does not know where the woman is.

Wednesday, February 16—Barr maintains silence. Searching parties begin dragging pools and ponds in search for body.

Thursday, February 17—Barr's preliminary hearing. Justices Snow and Cross hold him for investigation by grand jury. Hunt for body still in progress.

Friday, February 18—Reported body had been found near old ice plant. Rumor proves mistake.

Saturday, February 19—Reward of \$50.00 is offered for discovering body of Josie Pryor.

Sunday, February 20—Body found buried at rear of Sam Love's barn. Sam and Jim Love arrested. Tom Barr writes confession and hangs self in cell. Is cut down in time to save life. Mob threatens lynching. Coroner's jury empaneled.

Monday, February 21—Inquest is conducted. Barr tells jury of crime. Officers guard jail. Mob again threatens prisoners.

Tuesday, February 22—Jury reports that Josie Pryor came to death at hands of Tom Barr. Preliminary trial of Love negroes postponed until Friday.

Wednesday, February 23—Negroes still in jail. Lynching talk continues.

Thursday, February 24—Prepare for preliminary hearing Friday.

body was buried in the place officers were notified and the removal was not made until the coroner's jury had been empaneled.

By this time a large crowd had gathered. This crowd followed the body to town and then gathered in small knots about the courthouse yard and on street corners discussing the tragedy.

A number of witnesses told the coroner's jury that they had been over the spot where the body was found buried on Thursday and that there was no pile of refuse there at that time. Also, the body of the hog had been seen some distance away on Thursday and probably Friday, it is said. This caused suspicion to fall upon the Love negroes, as Barr had been in jail since Tuesday. Some believe that the Loves had been in the possession of the body ever since the murder.

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After Making Written Confession Tom Barr Attempts Suicide As Sheriff and Deputies Make Ready Defense of Jail Against Gang Would-be Lynchers.

With an angry mob jamming the streets for a block in every direction from the county jail, Tom Barr, held on suspicion, wrote and signed a statement confessing that he murdered Josie Pryor, negress, and then hanged himself in his cell Sunday night, following the finding of his victim's body and the arrest of Jim and Sam Love.

Prisoners in adjoining cells heard him strangling and shouting for the officers, who cut Barr down just in time to save his life. He used his belt in attempting suicide and it required half an hour or longer for physicians to bring him back to consciousness.

Until a late hour Sunday night the mob surrounded the jail, while Sheriff T. M. Hagler and a half dozen deputies stood guard.

The confession was shown to the coroner's jury on Monday, and later Barr discussed the crime with the members of the jury. While not implicating the Love negroes, it is said that Barr declared that he did not bury the hog, dug up with the Pryor woman's body, but declared that he buried the body where it was found. His statement is regarded as an attempt to shield the Love negroes, as five or six witnesses contradict his statement.

"I killed her because I loved her," Barr told the members of the jury and the officers, it is understood.

Again about 10 o'clock Monday night a mob of twenty-five or thirty men showed up before the jail, but dispersed when the officers on guard made it clear that they intended to defend the prisoners.

The preliminary trial of the Loves was set for Tuesday afternoon, but was postponed until Friday, because, it is said, some feared that an attempt might be made to take the negroes from the officers if they were brought from the jail. Both deny any connection with the crime, it is said, although the coroner's jury reported that Josie Pryor came to her death at the hands of Tom Barr and that Jim and Sam Love were accessories after the fact.

According to Barr's confession to the officers, he used a machine hammer to murder the woman, it is said.

Both white and colored citizens are very much aroused over the horrible crime and the concealing of the body, and if it had not been for wise counsel from older citizens it is probable that an attempt to break into the jail would have been made.

### POLITICAL GAME GETS INTERESTING; COUNTY RACES BEGIN TO FILL

State Contests Will Also Take Shape Following Meet of State Committee

### WELDON AND BROWNING ARE ONLY LEGISLATIVE ENTRIES

Rye May Be Opposed; Reeves and Walsh To Seek Gus Enloe's Position

Following the meeting of the Democratic State Committee at Nashville tomorrow, the political game will take on added interest and the state races will begin to form, and a call for the Henry county committee is also expected in the near future when methods for nominating a candidate for direct representative will be decided upon.

As yet Gov. Rye has no opposition for the gubernatorial nomination, although Judge Sidney J. Everett, of Jackson, is being groomed by his friends. Judge Everett will announce his intentions in regard to the race in the near future, it is expected.

B. A. Enloe, West Tennessee member of the Railroad Commission, will likely have strong opposition should he stand for reelection. Homer Reeves, of Union City, one of the most popular traveling salesmen in the State, is a probable candidate for this position, and if he shies his lid into the ring friends in practically every county will get behind him. Mr. Reeves has always taken an active interest in the political game, contributing both time and money to the Democratic campaigns, but has never been a candidate for office. He would probably have the solid support of the Ninth Congressional district, unless Thos. J. Walsh, of Humboldt, former state senator, should get into the fight.

In the event of Mr. Walsh's entrance into the contest the Ninth district would be split between Reeves and Walsh.

Col. Enloe may be a candidate for reelection but it is not considered likely that very many of the old-line Democrats will fall in line for him because of his former support of Hooper. However, it is impossible to say just what may happen.

Dudley Porter, of Paris, Dorsey B. Thomas, of Camden, and Judge T. W. Sims, of Linden, are announced candidates for Congress and this promises to be one of the most spirited races ever seen in this district.

Col. W. E. Weldon is the only announced candidate for the State Senate, although Claude Bushart and G. L. Fryer are probable contestants for this position.

Thos. J. Browning is the only entry in the race for Representative, since the withdrawal of Nathan D. White, although G. R. Baucum, Henry Jones, J. J. Thompson, Jr., Sam A. Green and others have been mentioned.

### STEPS MAY BE TAKEN BY COUNTY COURT TO SETTLE CONTROVERSY

Member of Bar Says Officials Could Not Hold Over If Road Act Is Killed

### THINKS IT QUESTION FOR HIGH COURT TO SETTLE

Should Law Be Declared Repealed Commissioners Will Automatically Go Out

If the Robertson and Haywood county road act repealed the Henry county statute, the local road commissioners and supervisors could not hold over under the old law merely because no attempt had been made to carry out the repealing act, according to one of the members of the Paris bar.

This attorney declared that if the Henry county statute was knocked out by the other act that the commissioners and supervisor automatically lost their positions at that time. He said that the section relied upon by the commissioners to sustain the old law—the section published in The Parisian last week—would seem to hold both ways in regard to the repeal, that it was a kind of wheel-within-a-wheel, and was a question for the courts to determine.

As the commissioners are not going to take any steps to test the law, it is probable that the matter will be brought before the county court at the next regular meeting of that body. The members of the court will likely be asked to have the act tested.

Many are saying that if the law is repealed that the Robertson and Haywood county law should be put in operation, and they will anxiously await the action of the April term of the county court.

### Masons Celebrate

At the Methodist Church Tuesday night the Masons and Eastern Star Masons gave a splendid Washington Day program, which was a success in every way and very much enjoyed by the large audience present.

### BIG SANDY DWELLINGS CONSUMED

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the residences of D. G. Curd and David J. Cooper at Big Sandy Tuesday night, according to information reaching Paris. The blaze started in Prof. Curd's residence and soon spread to the adjoining building owned by Mr. Cooper and occupied by a Mr. Hawley and family. Prof. Curd had a narrow escape from death, escaping through a window. The losses are partially covered by insurance.